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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A transformation unit 102 transforms an entered image to multi-resolution space. A quantizer 105 performs vector quantization on a local pattern of an image of a multi-resolution representation. A perspective-order calculating unit 107 extracts a plurality of code words, positions corresponding thereto and/or angle of rotation and/or scale, and the perspective-order relationship of a plurality of these representative vectors, from the quantized image. An algebraic encoder 108 encodes the input image based upon the extracted information. As a result, there are provided an image processing apparatus and method for asymmetric encoding without motion in three dimensions and extraction of a three-dimensional structure. Further, a transformation unit 1103 transforms an entered image to vector field, and a singularity detector 1104 detects a singularity in the transformed image. A transformation encoder 1105 partitions the vector field into areas which include detected feature points, and each area is encoded by functional approximation. As a result, a finite number of feature points can be obtained with ease and an image processing apparatus and method exhibiting strong resistance to the effects of noise are provided.